



CHAPTER 7

The Final Word

One of the goals of Indiana Department of Natural Resources is effective “stewardship of the resources entrusted to DNR by Hoosiers for future generations” (DNR, 2005). It is our responsibility as agents of the citizens of Indiana to “preserve, protect, restore, regulate, manage, provide recreation, and educate” (DNR, 2005). All outdoor recreation providers are stewards who are responsible for meeting the needs of people while maintaining the integrity of the land.

As stewards our job is to serve others. To best serve the user populations of Indiana’s outdoor recreation sites, we must know communities’ demographics, changes that can be expected in the near and distant future, and the desires of diverse user groups within each community. We must work with people and partner with outside organizations to see the big picture. By opening the doors to community input and networking beyond the field of natural resources, we may also avail ourselves of new sources of revenue, increased user populations, and greater acceptance within local areas.

This SCORP advocates an increased awareness of how outdoor recreation can affect the health and well being of all of Indiana, not just its citizens but also the State’s natural resourc-

es, economy, appeal to tourists, and development as a national leader. Providers of outdoor recreation have a significant positive influence on all aspects of a person’s well being; healthy people create a healthy community; and healthy communities create a healthy State. Outdoor recreation providers have a tremendous impact through provision of new recreational opportunities, acquisition and restoration of endangered habitats, and alignment with national goals for recreation and quality of life.

We have not limited the influence of outdoor recreation to persons without



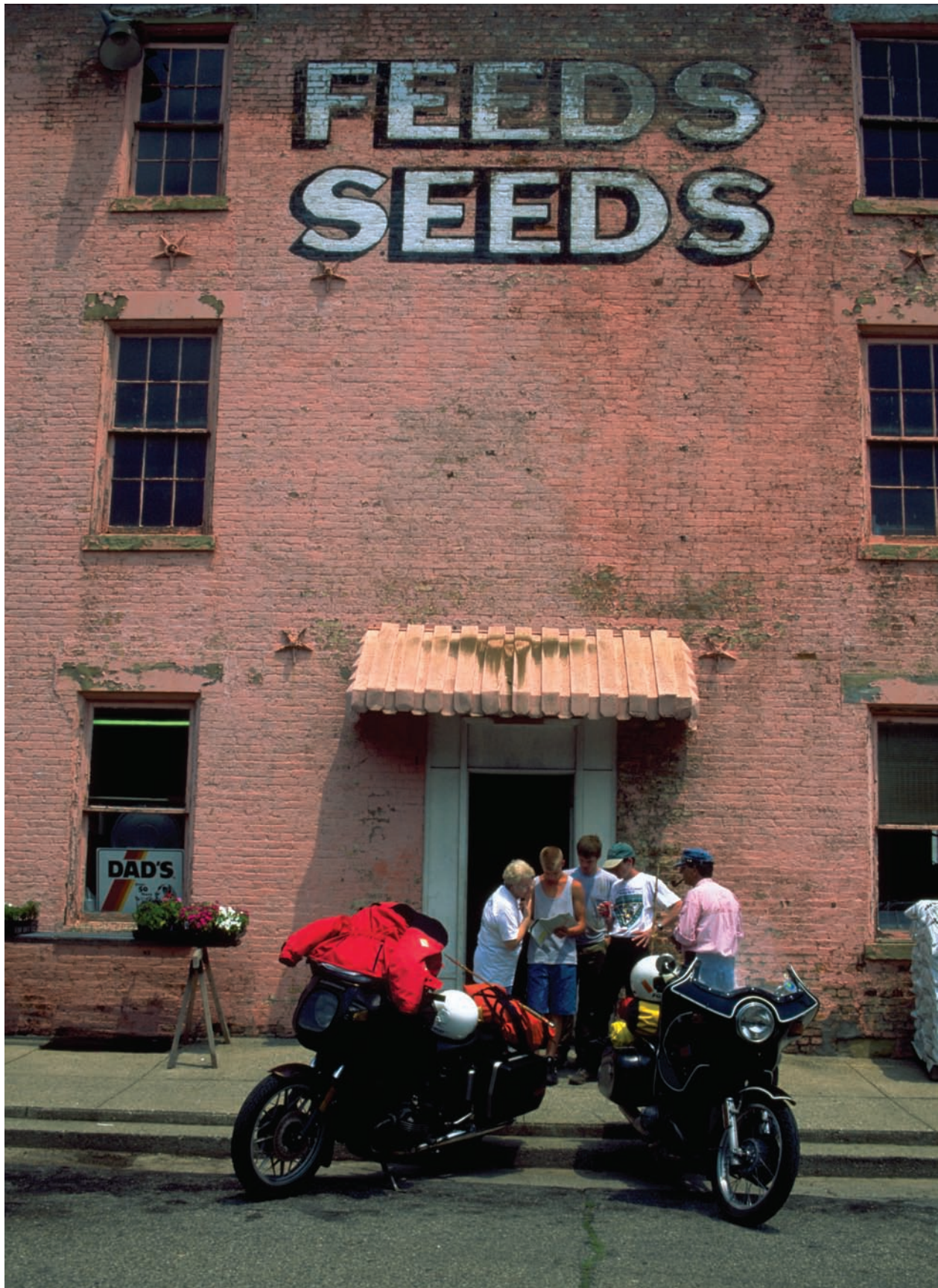


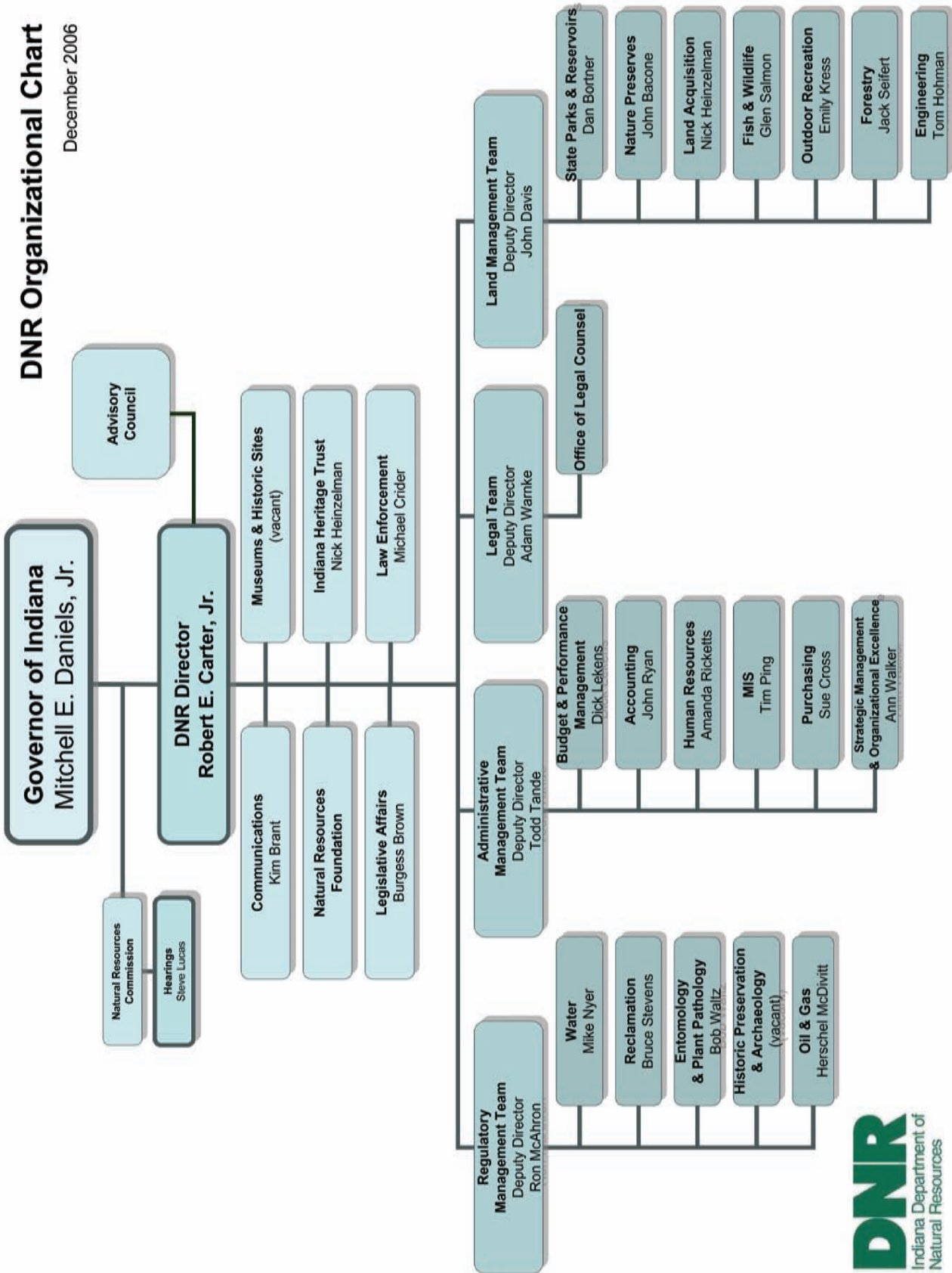
disabilities or limitations. We have advocated the use of universal design to address the needs of all. We have shown that UD goes well beyond the physical needs of Hoosiers, that it can also impact intellectual, social, sexual and spiritual health. UD spans generations and can be used to help bring families and communities together for the greater good.

This SCORP has shown that Indiana's citizens enjoy a well-rounded variety of outdoor recreation activities and the benefits they derive from them. It has shown that the State has not kept up with the population growth in land acquisition and expressed major concerns for increasing recreation opportunities at the local level. This is an issue that must be addressed soon to meet the desires of Hoosiers to have outdoor recreation opportunities close to home. Even so, this SCORP is a comprehensive plan that spans a myriad of problems and possibilities. It includes recommendations for outdoor recreation

activities and sites and encompasses everything from a meditation area in a park, to strolling down the street, to rollerblading at a skating park, fishing at a local pond, and motorboating or sailing Lake Michigan. The SCORP has recommendations for every generation and degree of physical ability, as well as for the diverse interests of user groups throughout Indiana. The recommendations in this SCORP are not just for local municipalities or local park and recreation boards. They are for every outdoor recreation provider: State, county, township, municipal, public, and private.

As stewards who have been entrusted with meeting the needs of Indiana's citizens it is our job to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for all people. We hope that this SCORP will provide the direction needed to develop and implement plans and actions at all levels, for all providers, to meet current and future needs of outdoor recreation in our fine State.







Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Indiana Natural Resources Commission:

<http://www.in.gov/nrc/>

Twelve bipartisan resident members who meet four times per year to address problems pertaining to the DNR.

IDNR Divisions

Communications:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/public/>

Provides internal and external communications, public relations, marketing, and public education for all of DNR.

Engineering:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/engineer/>

Provides engineering and technical support for all DNR properties and others including architectural, sanitary, electrical, landscape, civil, and code enforcement.

Entomology and Plant Pathology:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/>

Provides information and technical assistance in managing plant and apiary pests; invasive and harmful species are a specialty.

Fish and Wildlife:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/>

Manages and monitors fish and wildlife populations throughout Indiana; technical assistance and information is available.

Forestry:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/>

Manages the Indiana State Forests and provides information and technical assistance to foresters and private landowners.

Historic Preservation and Archaeology:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/>

Division acts as the staff for the State Historic Preservation Officer, and promotes conservation of cultural resources by facilitating state and federal preservation programs.

Human Resources:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/humanres/>

Division acts as a resource for current and future employees of DNR. They provide information on employment, benefits, volunteering, internships, applications and more.

Law Enforcement:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/>

Provides 204 Conservation Officers in 10 law enforcement districts statewide. Staff handles environmental investigations, emergency response, education, law enforcement, and property protection.

**Nature Preserves:**

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr/>

Provides permanent protection to significant natural areas in Indiana. Their goal is to maintain sustainable examples of all native ecological communities in the State.

Oil and Gas:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/dnroil/>

Oversees petroleum production and exploration throughout the State. Three program areas under Oil and Gas are: Permitting and Compliance; Field Services; and Abandoned Sites.

Outdoor Recreation:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/>

Division handles State and local level park and recreation master planning, streams and trails, grants, and technical assistance for the public and recreation professionals.

Reclamation:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/reclamation/>

Provides resource protection by overseeing reclamation of abandoned mines, active mines, mine blasting, mining permits, and public participation in the oversight and permit processes.

State Museum and Historic Sites:

<http://www.in.gov/ism/>

Operates a wide variety of historic/cultural programs and facilities statewide such as Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, Ernie Pyle Home, Grissom Air Museum, and Angel Mounds archeological site.

State Parks and Reservoirs:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/index.html>

Manages and operates Indiana State Parks, State Reservoirs, and State Park Inns. Provides education, recreation, resource conservation and management of these public lands.

Water:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/>

Division provides oversight of both above and below-ground water statewide. Provides customer information services, permitting, technical services, and engineering services. They also operate three work groups: Floodplain Management; Resource Assessment; and the Compliance and Projects Branch.



Other related Indiana Government offices

Indiana Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation:

<http://www.in.gov/isda/soil/>

Provides guidance, education and technical assistance to public and private landowners throughout Indiana.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/>

Provides branches that deal with air, water, and land. Technical oversight, permits and regulatory compliance are part of their mission.

Indiana Department of Health:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/>

Provides policy, guidance and facilitation of public health and health care activities and programs statewide.

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/programs/GovernorsCouncil/>

Promotes sound physical fitness, nutrition and health.

Indiana Department of Transportation:

<http://www.in.gov/dot/>

Works with all aspects of the statewide transportation system: bus, car, rail, air, bicycle and foot. Sometimes partners with IDNR-OR on alternative transportation projects.

Indiana Economic Development Corporation:

<http://www.in.gov/iedc/>

A public-private partnership with a twelve-member board who act as the top economic development agency for Indiana.

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs:

<http://www.in.gov/ocra/>

Provides planning, grants, and technical assistance for rural economic development statewide.

Indiana Office of Tourism Development:

<http://www.in.gov/lgov/issues/tourism.html>

A stand-alone agency within State government that uses both public and private funds to expand tourism statewide.